The Mission of Point Foundation

The enduring Mission of Point Foundation is best expressed in Stewart's description of the first moment of inspiration that gave birth to the*Whole Earth Catalog*.

After his father's funeral in Illinois, in the late 60s, he was on a night plane back to California reading the book, *Spaceship Earth*: (A) "Between chapters I gazed out the window into dark nothing and slid into a reverie about my friends who were starting their own civilization hither and yon in the sticks and how I could help.

(B) .....So many problems I could identify came down to a matter of access. Where to buy a windmill. Where to get good information on bee-keeping. Where to get your hands on a computer without forfeiting freedom."

The Mission of Point Foundation (A) remains the same. The civilization whose seeds he saw out that dark window has grown and spread and insinuated its new principles, practices and tools into most corners of the world. New words have arisen in the world's languages to express its principles: sustainability, biodiversity, ecological integrity. This civilization's new foods are increasingly available to the public: organic vegetables, health foods, farmer's markets, CSA's. In the 70s its citizens in the U.S. had already grown numerous enough to resist and stop the growth of nuclear power, the old civlization's flagship technology. We are now a force to be reckoned with throughout the Western world.

Point's mission is still *to be powerfully useful to those who are building a new socially and ecologically viable civilization* (A).

But is the second half of Stewart's insight, (B), "So many of the problems I could identify came down to a matter of access," still true? It may be true that people now seriously need access to something else than tools or books, or the names of organizations, exactly.

We may need to think this through. Or maybe in this world of info-glut, a lack of*access,* isn't the bottleneck any more.

What is the main missing ingredient to the building of an ecologically viable, economically fair civilization now, at the turn of the Millennium? How can Point help provide that ingredient?

Ty Cashman, 11/1/96

ELEMENTS FOR MISSION

by Point Board, October 1996

- Practical access
- Media not paramount
- A value system needs to be communicated
- Sustainable culture/civilization
- *MWEC* p. 64 Access to things: -environmentally friendly
  -provide equitable return
  -direct national budgets to promote same
  -educate and cajole toward long-term, thinking
- How to do activism
- To honor health and humor
- Respect unconditionally the network of living creatures of which we are a part
- Mike's statement: Point's mission is to nurture the worldwide community of people seeking ecologically sustainable, sain and satisfying lives. Etc.
- Self-empowerment as harmony between human nature and nature's nature in a calm, non-exploitive manner
- Self-empowerment--realizing community
- Stay together, learn the flowers, go light
- Wild as sacred
- The 5 native american principles:
  -everything is interconnected
  -much is mysterious, unknowable
  -respect the lineages of elders and medicine people
  -sense of humor, coyote
  -worship all forms of life (worth shape)

Point Mission Statement:

Ty Cashman

Minimal mission statement:

- Access to ways to stay together, learn the flowers, go light.

- The Mission of Point Foundation is to offer access to essential tools, ideas, principles and working examples for individuals and communities creating a civilization of sustainability.